

# Witness of Peace

# October 2024

When my girls were born, instantly when I met them on the outside, I sang *Leaning On The Everlasting Arms* to them. This became their lullaby. Even now I hum it to them and still get teary eyed when we sing it in church. So much comfort here, ♪♪ “*I have blessed peace with my Lord so near. Leaning on the everlasting arms*” I pray that they carry this throughout their lives.



When Kaden came along, those early months were rough! That first night as I held him, *You Are Mine* was the perfect hymn for what I thought would be our very short time together. Sleepless night after sleepless night I would sing that song and as he grew it would take on different meanings. When he was 3 months old his first family and our family baptized him together and that hymn was played as both of his mothers held him. Again, the lyrics held such power and meaning for us in that moment as well for different reasons.

As part of our “forever” commitment to Kaden, the tribe, and his first family, there was an agreement not to change his name. When he started school a couple of years ago he realized then that his name didn’t match his family. I would refer back to our special song often in an attempt to comfort him. ♪♪ “*Do not be afraid I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me. I will bring you home. I love you and you are mine.*” Reminding him that his name didn’t matter., Jesus knows him and knows that we are a family no matter what. Folks, he was not subscribing to this one bit. He wanted the name he wanted and that was it!

Guess what happened next..... On August 16 we had an unexpected encounter in an unlikely place with his first family. It was in that moment that, ♪ “*Healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see, the lame will all run free. And all will know My name.*” Later that evening I received a message asking what they could do to help get him his name.

Then, on September 23rd, those same folks gave this little boy a gift. They gave him his name for the second time. We went to the Skagit County Courthouse and Kaden Ray q<sup>w</sup>ubačšəd Livingston was gifted his Indian name (Kwuh-botch-ud) and the last name of his family. He could have floated out of that courtroom he was so excited! q<sup>w</sup>ubačšəd means rainbow, and in the tradition of the Swinomish people, the matriarch of the family receives the name and gifts it to the child. This came to me on Good Friday and I gave it to him that day. Now it is \*officially\* his name. Everything happened at exactly the right time in exactly the right way because it was in His timing, not ours.

What are you earnestly waiting for? What do you need to let go of? Where could you practice more humility and less control to be open to what He has waiting for you? None of this is easy, but I promise it’s worth it. There just might be a rainbow on the other side.

♪♪ “*I love you and you are mine.*” ♪♪

- Mindy Livingston -

## Youth, Family, and Community News

Cool foggy mornings have arrived along with farmers finishing up their corn harvest. Some folks have pulled out their sweaters while others have pulled out their football jerseys and warm boots. The fishermen have been swarming the river trying to catch the big one. Sunday school has begun for the young and the older and the first round of Lefse has already taken place.

The month of October is filled with many opportunities for folks to gather together and celebrate fall. **Out to Dinner group** will be going to Giorgio's Pizza and Spaghetti house on the 1st. The bus will be leaving Peace at 5:20, please call to reserve a spot.

**Mark your calendars for the annual harvest party on Saturday the 26th.** This year's theme is twins. I have some cool prizes for the most original twins costume. Once again, dinner will be provided and games for all. We will have the traditional donut eating contest, bean bag toss, and we will end the night with a cake walk. Please bring a cake for the walk and a donation of canned food for the food bank. The night will begin at 5pm and will conclude around 8. All are welcome and bring a friend.

The women are excited to welcome Sarah from Seven Lakes Spa as their guest speaker on Wednesday the 2nd. Sarah will be talking about skin health and preparing for winter. Sarah is a local young woman who started her own business. Please come for lunch at 11:30.

### A couple things to save the date for:

**\*\*The weekend of November 8th-11th** Tammy and I will be taking the **high school girls** for a retreat down to **Crystal Mountain**. Space is limited, so please sign up right away.

**\*\*On Thanksgiving Eve, Peace will be hosting a traditional dinner.** This is sure to be a fun evening with friends and family. If you would like to contribute to the dinner, please give me a call. I have a craft planned and possibly a game.

I'm in need of a few supplies for Advent crafts if you have any neck ties, denim jean pockets, or lace please drop them off on my desk in the office.

**The Food Bank** is in need of **Spaghetti sauce** this month. They are also requesting **canned pie filling** for the Thanksgiving baskets. They will need all the pie filling by **Thursday, November 21st.**

**Go Green Tip-** Switch off your lights and electrical appliances when not using them.



Sunday School youth enjoyed their sno cone treat after a time of prayers and praises and bible trivia on Rally Sunday. We are so thankful to be back together again and looking forward to the rest of our friends joining us in the coming weeks!

*Mary J Fuentes*

# Stillaguamish Cluster News



**September 15, 2024**

## Cluster Worship Service Recap!

1 Thess. 5:11; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Psalm 133:1

*We are called to work together and lift each other up.*

*We hear the calling for our congregations to come together in order to be **STRONGER TOGETHER**. To accomplish this we will increase connections, communication and opportunities to love and serve our neighbors.*

It was a fabulous end-of-summer day; a glorious Sunday morning for members of the Stillaguamish Cluster churches to come together for an experiment/experience of worshipping together and getting to know our neighbors! Although we haven't had a formal meeting of the Lay Cluster leaders since the September 15<sup>th</sup> worship, we have received positive feedback and thoughts via comments on the feedback sheet that included:

**\* fun \* glad to see so many people attend \* awesome experience \* we need to do more combined cluster events \* great time \* enjoyed feeling of togetherness \* the mingling time \* being part of a large group**

The experiment/experience description is based on the fact that although this was our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Cluster Worship, we incorporated a more interactive worship time through breakfast worship, discussion and communion distributed by pastors to the tables.

Remember, we are **STRONGER TOGETHER** and numbers are NOT a true measure of how many people were impacted. We estimate that between 120-130 persons enjoyed a light breakfast of fruit kabobs, mini-muffins and bagels/cream cheese. Refreshments included: lemonade, coffee, tea & water.

As the worship service began at 10:00 am there was Get To Know Your Neighbor time, designed to mingle and make new friends by utilizing several versions of questions to stimulate conversation.

Five churches of the Stillaguamish cluster were represented – Camano, Peace, Our Saviour's, Faith and Freeborn, as well as visitors from out of the area.

The offering, as of the writing of this article, is approximately \$2500+ and will be divided amongst **LINC NW, Stanwood-Camano Resource Center, and Arlington Resource Center**, to be utilized in any capacity which will assist those suffering housing insecurity in our communities.

\*\*\*You can find a full report on the table in the narthex\*\*\*



It sometimes comes as a surprise to people, but the Northwest Washington Synod is a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER). For several years many of our congregations – at one time almost twenty – were connected to Lutheran congregations in Russia to share ideas, fund certain projects, learn about one another, and, most importantly, build relationships with our Lutheran siblings in Russia. Unfortunately, many of these relationships have faltered or broken down in the last few years. However, recently I was fortunate to meet up with some of our Russian Lutheran siblings and I am excited about new possibilities and new relationships.

Before I tell you about my recent trip, let me first give you some history about the Lutheran Church in Russia. Since the Protestant Reformation, there has been a Lutheran Church in Russia. While we often think that Russia only has Orthodox churches, it is interesting to note that Lutherans have persevered and endured for over 500 years in Russia – through different czars, wars, persecution as a minority church, the Soviet Union, and more - dedicated to sharing the good news of Jesus with all.

Today there are three Russian Lutheran Synods who have ELCA companion synods: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia (ELCIR) – companion synod Northeastern Minnesota, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East (ELCUSFE)– companion synod Central States, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia (ELCER) – companion synod Northwest Washington.

Our companion synod, ELCER, is located primarily in St. Petersburg and Moscow along with other areas around these cities. In the recent history of ELCER, Bishop and Archbishop Dietrich Brauer had to move with his family from Russia to Germany for safety after speaking against the war when Russia invaded Ukraine. Following this, the ELCER then elected a new bishop. He sadly died a few months after taking office. The ELCER then elected another new bishop and archbishop in 2023. The new bishop is Bishop Sergei Holzwert and the Archbishop is Vladimir Provorov.

Because we in the ELCA are dedicated to renewing our relationship with our Russian Lutheran siblings, and because we are unable to travel to each other's country right now due to the war in Ukraine, it was arranged that representatives from ELCA Churchwide, the three Russian synods, and the three ELCA synods would meet in a neutral country. We were blessed to have twenty of us together from the ELCA and the Russian synods gather in September 2024 to build relationships, share ideas, and worship together in Novi Sad, Serbia. It was such a blessing to be in Novi Sad with Pastor Hector Garfias-Toledo and Ms. Mary Muller representing the NWWA Synod and to be with Bishop Sergei Holzwert, Archbishop Vladimir Provorov, and Pastor Ivan Shirokov representing the ELCER.

We learned from our brothers that it has been difficult these last few years. The isolation they feel from the rest of the world is hard. They also have political division in their congregations as well as a shortage of pastors. It has also been a meaningful and joyful time. They were excited to share that many people have joined the church during these difficult years. As we shared our hopes and dreams we together talked about how to have more youth involved, how to do more lay ministry, and what are some educational opportunities. It was a full and rich conversation as we each shared and listened to one another.

After learning and discussing, and after beginning to rebuild relationships, we ended our time committing ourselves to these next steps:

- Establishing/renewing our covenant with one another
- Establishing a communication committee that will meet regularly with one another
- Have both parties feel that they are part of the universal church'
- Share experiences in social programs
- Have a gathering of youth from both synods – perhaps meet in Georgia (the country)
- Collaborate on lay ministry and what lay ministry looks like in both sites
- Have a Zoom in the next two months to continue to build relationships
- Have youth involvement in all of these things

I am excited about the possibilities before us as we live into being the body of Christ together. If you would like to hear more about this trip and ways to be involved, you are invited to come to the next meeting with the NWWA Russian Team on Saturday, October 12 at 1 PM at Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood. We hope you can come.

As we read on the ELCA website regarding being a companion synod:

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.

May it be so through the Holy Spirit. +Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee / [bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)



## Do You Like Crunching Numbers?

Peace Lutheran has several positions open on the Church Council for the 2025 calendar year. Elections will be held at the November congregational meeting for the following positions: **Treasurer, Member-at-Large, PLCW Rep and Youth Rep.** Although each of these roles are important the one we are most concerned about is treasurer.

We are looking for someone who is familiar with numbers, bank statements, reading financial reports and writing checks.

Peace Lutheran currently retains an accounting firm that processes deposits, pays a majority of the bills, and prepares all financial reports. The treasurer receives digital copies of the bank statements and report and presents them to the church council each month as well as writing approximately 6-10 checks per month.

***If this position, or any of the others mentioned sound like a ministry you might be able to provide, please talk with President Debra Compton.***



## Annual Church ELECTIONS

### Monthly Stewardship Thought

Jesus brings us together to join in His mission. By sharing with Time, Talent and Finances we are involved in helping the kingdom of God come about. If you are interested in sharing information, thoughts and reading materials on the call of personal/congregational stewardship I would be more than happy to have a conversation with you!

- Bob Wall , Peace Member

**PLCW: Wed, Oct 2 @ 11:30 am**

**Lydia Circle: Mon, Oct 7 @ 5:30**

**Naomi Circle: Wed, Oct 16 @ 9:30**

**LWR Quilting: Thurs, Oct 24 @ 10**

For the next four weeks we will be trying to dissect some of Jesus' more challenging parables. Many of these challenging 'stories' have come up in our regular classes over the years and they always seem to leave us pondering 'What in the world is He trying to tell us'. So, since we have a bit of time while Pastor is away, we are taking a deeper dive into some of the historical background, characters and plots of these parables. **All are welcome** to come and share your thoughts and insights into these sometimes mysterious directives of Jesus to His disciples and ultimately us. Sunday mornings at 9:00 am!



## ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday Morning classes

♪♪ Happy Birthday To You ♪♪

- 5 Wayne Vroman
- 7 George Dauora  
Everett Fuentes
- 16 Beatrice Ferguson
- 24 Dana Stoffel
- 25 *Makena Kombol*
- 26 Pastor Annette

*\*youth are italicized*

**October Worship Assistants**

**Thank you for serving!**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
6	Debra C. & Linda L.	Patti	Kris	Khloe
13	Karen & Dennis Dicken	Simon	Alanna	Phoebe
20	Isaiah & Ashley Kombol	Jordy	Ellyn	Emmie
27	Char & Jordy Tyler	Stephanie	Larry B.	Mason

**VOLUNTEER ARCHIVIST NEEDED**



Josephine Caring Community is recruiting a volunteer archivist to organize documents and photographs spanning our 116-year history.

All work is remote and there is no immediate deadline. A modest budget for materials is available for you to capture and tell the story of our organization which has compassionately served many generations in the community.

# October 2024

Peace Lutheran Church Mission Statement:  
*“Called by Christ to offer help, hope,  
 and healing.”*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> AA Noon Out to dinner Bus leaves at 5:20 pm	<b>2</b> Al-Anon 10 am PLCW 11:30	<b>3</b> Flatbread 9:00	<b>4</b> AA Noon	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Sunday School All Ages 9 am</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>	<b>7</b> Lydia 5:30 AA 10 am	<b>8</b> AA Noon	<b>9</b> Al-Anon 10 am Lefse 9 am	<b>10</b> Lefse 9 am	<b>11</b> AA Noon	<b>12</b> Men’s Breakfast 8 am
<b>13</b> <b>Sunday School All Ages 9 am</b> <b>Worship 10am</b>	<b>14</b> AA 10 am 4H 6:30 pm	<b>15</b> AA Noon Council 6:30pm	<b>16</b> Naomi Circle 9:30 am Al-Anon 10 am Confirmation 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> Gathering Place 3:30 pm 4-H Foods 6 pm	<b>18</b> AA Noon	<b>19</b> Cluster Mtg 9:00 Socktoberfest Party @ Faith 3:00
<b>20</b> <b>Sunday School All Ages 9 am</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>	<b>21</b> AA 10 am Krumkake Making 5:30 pm	<b>22</b> AA Noon	<b>23</b> Al-Anon 10 am <b>Witness Deadline</b>	<b>24</b> LWR Quilting 10 am	<b>25</b> AA Noon	<b>26</b> Men’s Breakfast 8 am Spritz 9:30 am <b>Harvest Party 5:00</b>
<b>27</b> <b>Sunday School All Ages 9 am</b> <b>Worship 10 am</b>	<b>28</b> AA 10 am	<b>29</b> AA Noon Book Club 6 pm	<b>30</b> Al-anon 10 am	<b>31</b>		

## **October Mission of the Month**

Our mission offering for October will benefit Local Disaster Relief. In the past this fund has been used to help anyone from a family who suffered loss from flood damage, a fire department that needed help with equipment after fighting wildfires, and everything in between. Thank you for your generosity month after month to the local organizations that benefit from your ongoing support.

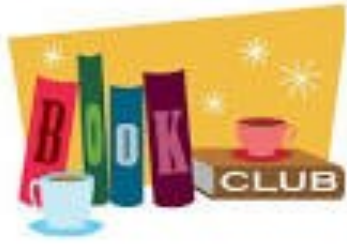
### **The Bazaar is coming up fast! Here's how you can help:**

- \*First batch of lefse is done! The second batch is scheduled for **October 7th, 9th, and 10th at 9 am**. Anyone is welcome to come help and learn how to make it the Norwegian way!
- \*Flatbread is being made on **Thursday, October 3 at 9 am**.
- \*Krumkake making is the evening of **October 21 at 5:30** and dinner will be provided.
- \*Keep working on your craft and sewing projects and please harvest your root veggies, plants, etc.
- \*Search through your drawers for unused gift cards or pick up a couple while you're out for our gift card tree. You can drop these off at the office.
- \*We are in need of **volunteers on October 30th** to set up the tables and **October 31** for kitchen prep. Many hands make light work for chopping veggies for the soups and salads. Please contact Mary Fuentes if you're available to help with that.
- \***Friday, November 1** is pie making day. Jolene Rod is your point of contact if you're willing to pitch in to create beautiful pumpkin and berry pies.
- \*We also need volunteers to help with takedown and clean up at **2 pm on November 2**.
- \*Please start thinking about the flavors of the **two pies you will bake or purchase** to donate to the kitchen or bakery. Please, no cream pies.

*Thank you all for your support year after year to make our bazaar such a success.*

*-Stephanie Bean*





“West with Giraffes” by Lynda Rudledge (postponed from September as we missed August Book Club!)

This is a true story and quite the adventure as the San Diego Zoo’s first female director requested giraffes from Africa back in the 30’s.

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, aka Woody Nickel, almost 18, happens to be on a New York dock in 1938 when the hurricane-battered *SS Robin Goodfellow* limps into the harbor. Two huge broken-up crates are lifted off containing amazing cargo: two Baringo giraffes. They are alive, but the female has a broken leg. An old man, Riley Jones, steps up to take charge of the strange cargo. He calls a veterinarian who bandages and splints the female’s leg. And so the adventure begins. The story is told from Woody’s point of view but now as a man a century old, realizing he should get this tale out before he’s gone.

**If you haven’t joined a book club meeting and would like to jump in, we would love to have you! Contact Mary Fuentes or Karen Dicken.**

**All are welcome!**



**On November 1st and 2nd,  
Lutheran World Relief at Peace  
needs to send our quilts and kits  
to the in-gathering at:  
Our Redeemer’s Lutheran  
Church, 2500 NW 85th in Seattle.**

If you have been looking for an opportunity to support our Lutheran World Relief efforts, we need a driver to take our book bags, quilts, and kits to the drop off.

If you don’t have a large vehicle, Norm and I will lend our truck to the effort. Also, mileage reimbursement is available. The in-gathering is very well organized and once at the church it is only a few moments to unload and be on your way.

**The Friday hours are 8am to 2pm; Saturday hours are 8am to 11:30 am.  
If you are interested call Alanna at 360-391-4925.**



**You're invited to help fill the bin in the narthex with new socks and underwear to help our neighbors in**



**The LINC NW Clothing Closet**  
LINC NW Serves an average of 200 individuals per month in our closet.  
**THAT'S A LOT OF SOCKS & UNDERWEAR!**  
Your donation helps us stock the closet and ensure that we have enough variety to serve each person.

**The Marysville Cold Weather Shelter**  
From November to March LINC NW opens the Marysville Cold weather shelter to ensure that folks have a warm place to sleep when the temperature drops below 34\*. We keep a steady supply of socks around to help keep our guests feet warm and dry during these cold, wet months!



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***Look Inside*** for information about church and community events and post the calendar on your wall so you don't miss a thing!